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A TRUE NARRATIVE OF THE CONFESSION AND EXECUTION Of Ensign *Flower*, AT READING

the 31st of this Instant *March* 1684.

Who was Tryed and condemned at *Reading*, *February* the 28th. for Killing of Capt. *Powney* at *Windsor*. With a full Account of his penitent behaviour during the time of his Imprisonment.

Mr. *Flower*, the unhappy Subject of this discourse, was a Gentleman of a good Family, and one who wanted none of those Ornaments which a civil and generous Education could accomplish him with: He after some time applyed himself more particularly to Arms which he had always a natural inclination too, and so well improv'd himself in Martial Discipline that at length he received a Commission from his present Majesty to be Ensign in one of the Companys of the Foot Guards, in which Command he always behaved him-

A full

telf like a Gentleman, and a Soldier ſome-
time ſince Mr. *Downes Purvior* to his ſacred
Majeſty, and a Gentleman otherwiſe of a
very conſiderable eſtate and quality bought
a Commiſſion for a Captain in the ſame com-
pany where Mr. *Flower* was Enſign, and be-
ing at *Windſor* in company with Captain *Pots*
Deputy Governour under his Grace the
Duke of *Norfolk*; the preſent Conſtable of
the Caſtle, & Mr. *Flower*, he obſerved *ſome*
little *A*nnimoſities paſſed betwen Capt. *Pots*
and Mr. *Flower*, which like a true *F*riend
and good *C*hriſtian, he endeavoured to com-
poſe, perſwading Mr. *Flower* to abate of that
heat and paſſionate temper which he too
much indulged, & upon thoſe grounds *which*
perhaps *were* falſe, however uncertain, and
that 'twould better become him to ſeal a per-
fect friendſhip and amity with that worthy
perſon Capt. *Pots* than ſuffer his Blood to
ferment into rage and diſorder, which might
be the occaſion of future miſchiefs *which*
were ſooner *committed* than either repented
of or redreſſed.

This ſober advice from Capt. *Downes* made
at preſent ſome impreſſion on Mr. *Flower*,
conſidering the Captain both as his friend &
that duty and reſpect he ſtood more parti-
cularly obliged to render him, as his Superi-
or Officer, for the during their ſtay together
the Storm which before had too violently
raged in his outward expreſſions ſeemed
wholly allayed, at leaſt confined to his own
Breaſt

Breast. After some time they went out together from the *three Tun Tavern* into the Street, Capt. *Pots* and Mr. *Flower* being some paces before, on a sudden Capt. *Powney* heard the clashing of Swords, and making haste after his *company*, saw Capt. *Pots* and Mr. *Flower* engaged with their Swords *drawn and* vigorously *passing* at one another, when coming *up* to them he *called* to Mr. *Flower* and desired him to put up his Sword, which he taking no Notice of, Capt. *Powney*, told him he *must* not see Murther *committed* in his *company* & by those he *esteemed* his friends: that he was his captain and *commanded him* to desist. Upon which 'tis said Mr. *Flower* replyed, be who you will, if you *come* within the reach of *my* Sword I will run *you* thorow; the Captain *more* friendly than cautiously throwing *himself* in between *them with* a design to part *them*; *Flower* ran *him* through the Body, which proving *mortal* he soon after died of it.

Mr. *Flower* had *wounded* Cap. *Pots* in several places, but upon the fall of Cap. *Powney*, the people came in and apprehended Mr: *Flower*, who *was committed* to *Reading Goal*, and on *February* the 28th. at the Assizes there held, arraigned, and condemned.

Great intercession was made by Mr. *Flower's* Mother to obtain his Pardon, with very great offers for saving his Life, or at least *changing his* Sentence of Death into Transportation

portation, but all endeavours proved *unsuccessful*, he having *formerly*, as 'tis said, *tasted* of his *Majesties gracious favour*, *and* the whole Action *appearing* at his Tryal so *much* to his *disadvantage* he was this Day Executed at *Auckland End* near *Reading*.

During his Imprisonment he behaved himself with all the marks of Penitence and Contrition, which gained him the favour of some few days respit, that he might the better prepare himself for his latter end which was so fast approaching. But the great God, who is often pleased to sanctifie our greatest afflictions to us, and by his infinite mercy sweeten that cup of sorrow which by our own sins we have dashed with Gall, was pleased to give this Repentant Criminal a true sight of all his misdeeds, and by the power of his Gracious Spirit an utter abhorrence of those Evil ways, which the World, the Flesh, and the Devil too often insnare us with.

On the eighth of this Instant, at ten in the Morning, he was conducted by the Sheriff to *Auckland End* the place of his Execution, where after the singing of a psalm he went to his Devotion, and taking solemn leave of his Friends, after some short Ejaculatory prayers the sentence of Death was executed upon him.

Entered according to ORDER.

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